

Seattle University ScholarWorks @ SeattleU

The Spectator

1-16-1970

Spectator 1970-01-16

Editors of The Spectator

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.seattleu.edu/spectator>

Recommended Citation

Editors of The Spectator, "Spectator 1970-01-16" (1970). *The Spectator*. 1191.
<http://scholarworks.seattleu.edu/spectator/1191>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks @ SeattleU. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Spectator by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ SeattleU.



Senate Votes B.S.U. \$1,025

by Kerry Webster
Executive Editor

A compromise forged at a marathon student senate meeting last night appears to have cooled an angry black-white confrontation over Homecoming activities.

Sixteen senators, meeting in emergency session at Xavier Hall, voted 11 to 5 to allot the Black Student Union \$1,025 for their 1970 activities, including a planned "Black Homecoming."

The decision was reached after five hours of heated debate, much of it taking place before over 300 students and faculty packed into Xavier conference room.

The procession of complainants and interested parties who spoke before the senate included Bobby Davis, president of the BSU, Emile Wilson, a former president, and Dr. John Toutonghi, chairman of the physics department and former advisor to the group.

Approval of the increased allotment appears to have forestalled a black student strike and basketball boycott, threatened Wednesday by Davis.

Appearing unexpectedly before the regular senate meeting, Davis had informed the senators that he wanted \$1500 for a Black Homecoming, or "there is not going to be any more basketball played at this University."

The figure arrived upon by the senate was considerably below Davis' demand, but higher than the \$900 recommended by the Financial Board, and a great increase over the BSU's original allotment of \$600.

Although Davis had walked out before the final vote was announced, Sen. Paul Chiles, a BSU member, said he thought the organization would be satisfied with the revised figure.

Chiles and ASSU first vice president Doug McKnight made the announcement of the vote to the handful of students left when the senators emerged at 1 a.m. from a three-hour-long executive session in the basement of the building.

Haggard and fatigued, McKnight told the waiting students, "We don't look at this as appeasement—we look upon this as an effort to show faith in the BSU."

"This is the last time that there will ever be a 'white' homecoming and a 'black' homecoming," he said, "Next year, there'll be one homecoming for both."

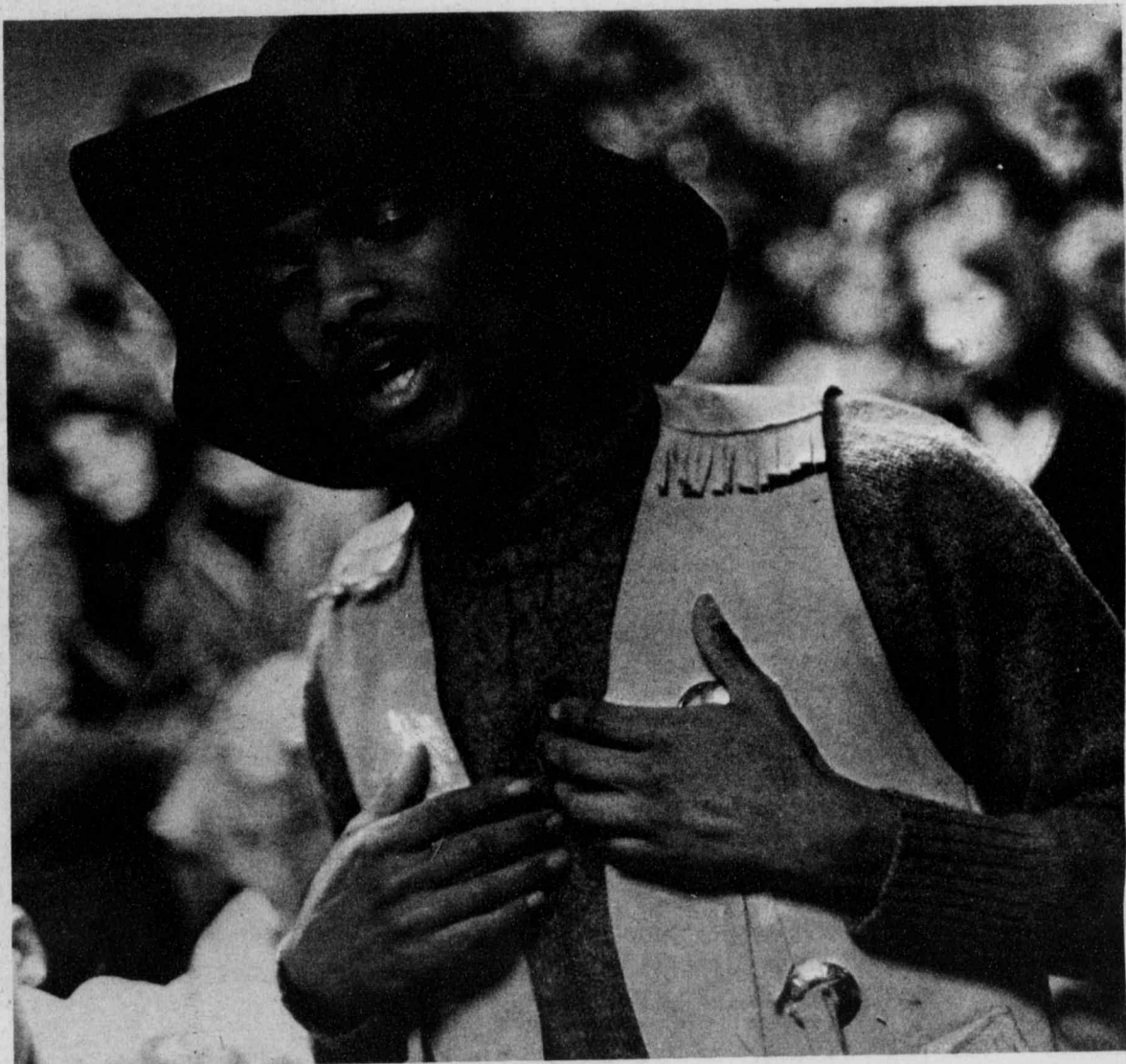
Chiles, the principal negotiator for the BSU in the senate, added, "any action that was taken was not taken out of fear. As far as what we did is concerned, the basketball question is irrelevant. We were dealing with a principle here."

The threat of a basketball boycott was being defused, in fact, even as the student legislators met. Black varsity players, at a meeting in one player's home, decided as a group not to support the boycott.

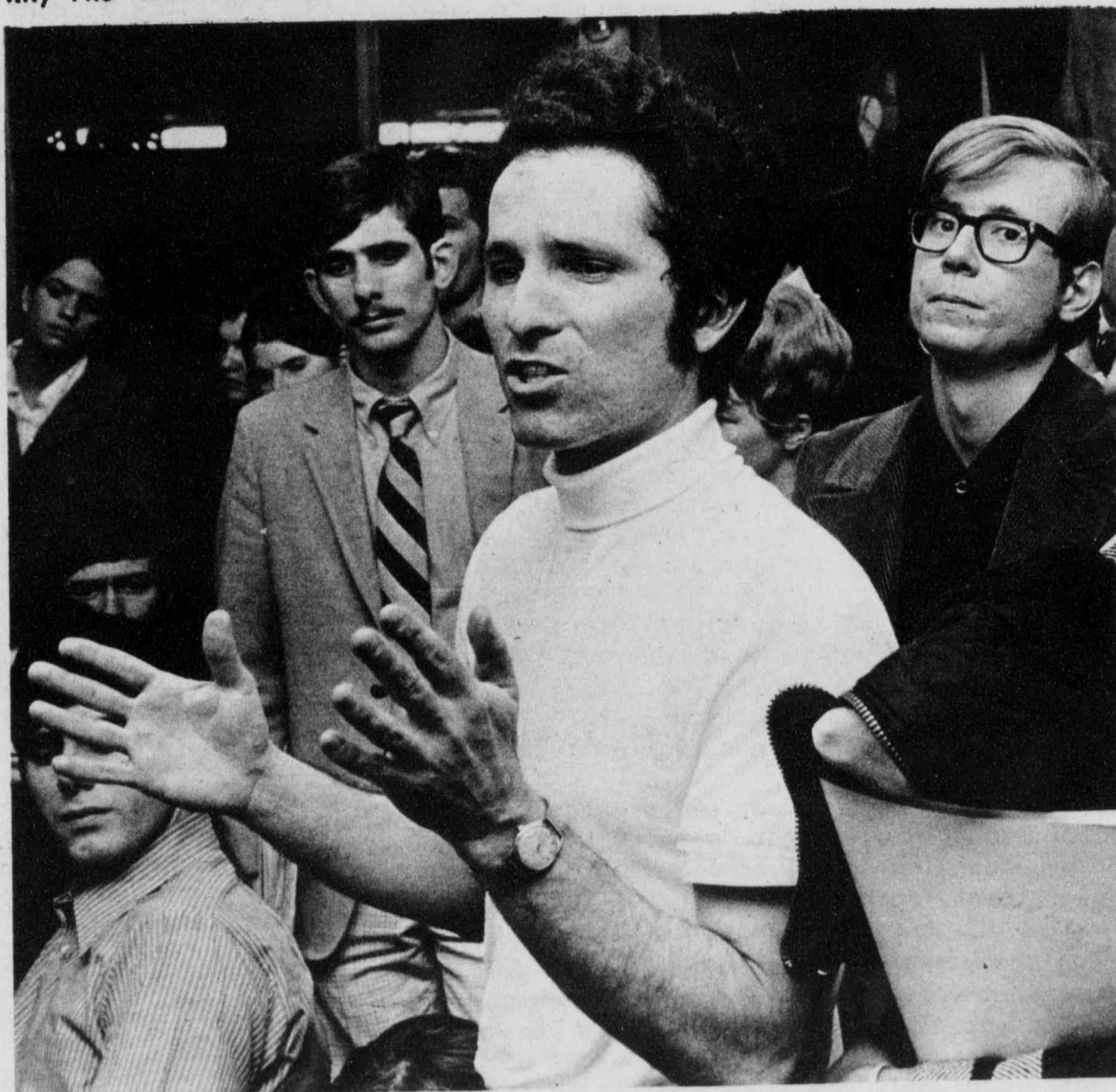
The senate had gone into executive (closed) session after hearing two hours of public argument. Tempers flared during some of the interchanges, and McKnight resorted often to the gavel to quiet the audience, the largest ever to witness a senate session.

ASSU Treasurer Ed Robinson presented a budget in which the BSU allotment for the year had been trimmed to \$900, despite the senate's recommendation for \$1,200 the night before.

Robinson said the \$900 should be sufficient to support the BSU's regular 'community action' pro-



Emile Wilson, spokesman for the Black Student Union, stated the reasons why the ASSU and the BSU did not coordinate their Homecoming plans.



Dr. John Toutonghi, former advisor to the BSU, offered what was thought to be an objective view of the entire situation before the Senate and spectators.



BOYCOTT DROPPED; ATHLETES REFUSE B.S.U.

Chairman Gives Reasons Behind Black Homecoming

(Editor's Note: The following news release is reprinted exactly as written by the BSU's Homecoming Chairman,— DaVerne Bell.)

by DaVerne Bell

Winter quarter has begun and again the time draws closer to homecoming — of two separate groups — black and white.

We know many of the students and faculty are asking as they did last year—why? and as we explained in the past we'll explain in hopes this will be the last time we will have to, for Black Homecoming will be just as annually as "white" homecoming. Why is it necessary? Our reasons are the same. The Homecoming you've planned has nothing in it to interest the black players. Just look at the team — you are proud of it and so are we—you are proud of the black players and so are we, yet your homecoming activities have nothing in them that interest them. Three-fourths of our team is black and we believe it is only fair that they should

enjoy homecoming — and that is why we must and will continue to hold a Black Homecoming.

Now as far as alienation and separation is concerned it has been voted by the Black Student Union that this year our homecoming will be open to those students who wish to attend. It will not be anything as big as yours and we will nowhere come near the amount of money you are spending—but it will be enjoyed by 3/4 of the team—the black players who you cheer at every game but give them nothing at homecoming. It will also include the Black Alumni.

It is to be held January 31st. Our program will entail: a fashion show of black fashions, presentation of past black players, crowning the Black Homecoming Queen and court cabaret dance.

Further information as to where, time and who to purchase tickets from will be published later for those interested in coming.

Senate Assures Funds For Black Homecoming

grams, as well as a Homecoming event, if only the BSU members were willing to pay part of the cost themselves, through ticket sales.

"Ticket sales account for 60 per cent of the regular Homecoming budget," he said. "It's only fair that the BSU members share their expenses in a similar manner—and we're only asking them to contribute 40 per cent."

Davis, speaking for the BSU, rejected the proposal.

"If we can't get a measly \$1,025, which is far less than half of what has been allocated to the ASSU to provide the white homecoming, you can take your \$900 and jam it, you dig?"

"We don't take no bones from white people," he added.

Emile Wilson, a former BSU president, argued that student government "owes us that money."

Dr. John Toutounghi, chairman of the physics department, spoke as a friend of the BSU. He chided the large audience for partisan behavior, and urged the senate to vote on the issue only, not on the way it was presented on campus.

"So what if Bobby Davis comes in here and intimidates you," he said, "He doesn't have the support of half the blacks on campus anyway."

"The point is the need that black students have for a dance for their team. It is not personalities, and it is not intimidation."



by Art Reis
Sports Editor

The S.U. basketball team met with members of the Black Student Union late yesterday afternoon and told the BSU that they refused to boycott classes and basketball practice.

A source said that a major reason behind the refusal to boycott was that the players didn't want their course of action in the matter decided for them by others.

The players were concerned, in their final decision, with both their present status on campus and with possible potential in the future.

A large segment of last night's "Black Homecoming" centered around and upon the varsity squads' black athletes.

Calling their use of the basketball players boycott an "ace in the hole", various BSU leaders said that the money they were asking for was already theirs. They merely wanted what was due them.

The basketball players make the money that you donate, they told the senate. They added that S.U. students owed them

"brothers" made by playing for S.U.

"Our black brothers who have played so valiantly this year are going to be without a homecoming," one member said.

In their presentation to the Student Senate on both Wednesday and Thursday evenings, the BSU factions told the Senate that the blacks on the squad were in support of their demands.

It was learned from various sources that the basketball players' support of the BSU petitions was present, at least in part, on Wednesday night but the support was never in strength at last night's Senate meeting.

The BSU had told the Senate originally that they wanted \$1500 for a separate Black Homecoming and that unless their demands were met

"there is going to be no more basketball played at this University."

The seeming change of support position by the ball club was a result of many reasons, mixed with even more rumors.

Basically, the source said, the early support came by way of much confusion during a hastily-called meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

The source felt that the players didn't have a real chance to think things out. The boycott was reported while most of the players were confused about everything.

"The players didn't like being moved around by other people," the source said.

Practice was suspended yesterday in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday, and will resume today.

All players are expected to suit up as of press time this morning.

Published Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year except on holidays and during examinations by Seattle University. Written, edited and financed by Seattle University students. Offices at Seattle University, Seattle, Wash. 98122.

Second class postage paid at Seattle, Wash. Subscription: \$4.50 a year; close relatives and alumni \$3.50; Canada, Mexico, \$4.00; other foreign, \$6.25; airmail in U.S. \$9.00.